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SUBJECT Memorial to the Jews

DIANE SAWYER: Thirty-eight years ago this Sunday, the Allies liberated Buchenwald from Nazi Germany. Of course, the Nazis made sure that most of the millions that they sent to Buchenwald and other death camps were murdered and disposed of long before the camps were freed.

Klaus Barbie was the Gestapo chief in the French city of Lyon from 1942 to '44. While there, he became known as "The Butcher of Lyon." The French say he had a hand in almost 12,000 murders and deportations. Among his victims, French underground chief Jean Moulin, who was brutally beaten to death. Yet Barbie went free after the war, ending up in Bolivia, where he lived prosperously until this year. When the Bolivians finally returned him to France to face trial, it was learned that, in fact, he had been in contact with U.S. intelligence agents after the war, that the U.S. had aided his escape to Bolivia.

Barbie was unmasked in Bolivia by Serge and Biata (?) Klarsfeld (?), full-time hunters of Nazi criminals. The Klarsfelds have just put out an American edition of their book, which is called "Memorial to the Jews Deported from France." It is a list of 80,000 Nazi victims.

And I have to say, looking through it, you know, the numbers say one thing to you. Name after name after name says something quite else.

Thank you very much for coming this morning.

Biata, tell us how you first learned that Barbie was in Bolivia.

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BIATA KLARSFELD: In the end of '71, there was the Barbie case closed in Munich, from the prosecutor. And so I brought new evidence in order to have this case reopened. And the prosecutor gave me some pictures, one of Barbie in '42; and another one, he said to me, "This man could be Klaus Barbie living in La Paz today. It could be. It's up to you to find him."

And between this, I received from a German in Lima a note saying, "This man is living now in Lima."

And so, I collected all the evidence in order to identify Eichman and Barbie. I had the names of his family, the Eichman and the Barbie family. And then I went to Lima. And Klaus Barbie learned that I picked up the plane in Paris to go to Lima, he crossed the border to go to Bolivia. I followed him to Bolivia and identified him. And public opinion and the officials were convinced that Eichman is Barbie.

SAWYER: But you never -- neither of you ever confronted him directly.

I think of that, Serge, because I think of the time that you did confront another Nazi war criminal. You put a gun between his eyes.

SERGE KLARSFELD: Yes, I did. I put a gun once on Kurt Lishka, who was head of the Gestapo in France. It was in order to show to the German justice that if we wanted to kill him, it was an easy thing. But we didn't want. We wanted him to be judged, and to be judged by judges of the generation of his children. And he was sentenced and he's now in jail.

SAWYER: Did you do that because you wanted to see his face at that moment?

KLARSFELD: No. I am never interested, because they are only symbols, you know, symbols of the Nazi crime. And we want them to be put before their judges. And it was done for Lishka, it was done for Barbie. We are not interested by the private man, because the private man can be like other men. And so you are more weak when you meet these people when -- than if you consider them as symbols.

SAWYER: Biata, now that Barbie has been brought back for trial, does it give you a bit of a feeling of some justice being done? Or do you start on yet another search? Is there someone else now that you...

MRS. KLARSFELD: Oh, yes. Just my husband went to Damascus last year in June, and he unmasked living in Syria one

3

of the most important head of Eichman, Alois Brunner, who deported Jews from Austria, from Greece, from France. So this is -- we try to have an order for Syria.

SAWYER: I read once that you said that it would take place above your family, above your career. It was the consuming passion of your life. Is that right?

KLARSFELD: Yes, it's right. But it brought, I would say, happiness because we did not sacrifice our family, we did not sacrifice even the intellectual work, like producing documentation like that one. And in all what we did, I suppose we had a lot of luck.

SAWYER: Can I ask you about -- you're a Jew. Your father was taken away by the Nazis.

You're a German.

MRS. KLARSFELD: I'm German and non-Jewish.

SAWYER: And non-Jewish. Why are you doing this?

MRS. KLARSFELD: Because I -- I am doing it in order to assume my historic and responsibility as a German. And I try to do it for action, and not only by words.

SAWYER: Biata and Klaus -- Serge, thank you very much.

The Klarsfelds, a mission.

And Klaus Barbie, of course, is a sign that your mission at least succeeded.